

Magnolia – Queen Anne District Council

Monday, January 14, 2013, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Bayview Manor

Minutes

Attendance - Members attending were Glenn Avery, Carol Burton, Daniel Cardozo, Susan Casey, John Coney, Jane Couchman, Ellen Monrad, and Mike Warren. Department of Neighborhood staff attending was Christa Dumpys. Also present were Councilmember Tim Burgess and Eric Tweit of the Seattle Department of Transportation.

Call to Order – Glenn Avery called the meeting to order and the agenda was adopted. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Update from Councilmember Tim Burgess – Councilmember Burgess discussed the recently-approved 2013 budget, reporting that since 2008, the budget has included greater emphasis on measuring outcomes. The budget also includes greater funding for street maintenance and repair than in previous years.

The councilmember also covered the South Lake Union zoning changes, reporting that the council is likely to approve the legislation in the first quarter of this year. He is generally supportive with some concerns, such as the impact of additional development on mobility/transit, infrastructure, public safety, and housing for income earners in the \$50-75K income range. To address some of these concerns, he proposed increased density (larger units), and land for new public schools that would be provided for by developers in exchange for new building-height regulations. He also hopes to increase the speed of public transit by giving signal priority to Rapid Ride.

In response to a question on homeless encampments in parks, the Councilmember said that while he is opposed to the encampments, the current lengthy bureaucratic process is unlikely to change during the current administration.

In response to a question on the upcoming expiration (2014) of the Bridging the Gap program, the Councilmember said that the program should be renewed.

In response to a question about the city's ten-year plan to end homelessness, the Councilmember reported that the goal was unlikely to be achieved. He said that Seattle is a magnet for homelessness because of services provided and that it's important for other cities to do their part. He also argued that those who receive homeless services should be required to present ID so their progress can be tracked. Finally, he argued that employing best practices from across the country – including rapid re-housing and innovative programs to reduce recidivism – will help alleviate the homeless problem.

Councilmember Burgess announced that he will be running for Mayor of the City of Seattle in the upcoming election.

Mercer Corridor Project Update – Eric Tweit of the Seattle Department of Transportation shared the latest updates on this project. Construction on the west phase begins in February. During construction, the number of available lanes on Mercer and SR 99 will be reduced, and SR 99 transit stops at Mercer will be closed. In the interim, Broad Street will open with 2 lanes in each direction to help ease traffic flow. For additional updates, visit the Department of Transportation website or contact mercinfo@seattle.gov for specific questions.

District Coordinator Report – Christa Dumpys reported:

- Five applications have been submitted for the Bridging the Gap/Neighborhood Street Fund, which is the final cycle for community proposals in the current BTG levy. A subcommittee has been formed to evaluate the proposals. The subcommittee will meet on January 29th, after which an email will be sent to the full council with recommendations. The recommendations must be submitted by the council by January 31st.

- Neighborhood Park and Street Fund applications are due February 4th. (Last year's approved project was the Galer Stairs improvement.) Encourage your neighbors to apply!

- The Magnolia Community Center is reducing its hours. As a result, holding meetings there every other month will begin to substantially deplete our group's budget starting in April, since we will be paying an additional amount to meet there after the center closes.

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Council chairperson, Glenn Avery offered to poll the group on new location options.

2013 District Council Work Plan – The Work Plan is the document that the Executive Committee uses to set the meeting agendas for the council. A draft plan was circulated to the group and the following additions were suggested:

- A mayoral candidates' forum in cooperation with neighboring districts
- A community forum on the issue of homelessness in our community (encampments, etc.)
- SDOT presentation on the issue of pedestrian traffic on Dravus
- Report from our District IV school board member (currently Michael DeBell)
- Smith Cove Park acquisition update
- Metro Park Improvement Plan Update (Ken Bounds, Seattle Parks Foundation)
- Discussion of neighborhood parks threatened by regional parks (Superintendent of Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Chair of City Council Committee on Parks and Neighborhoods)
- Update from city and county departments of health on the current state of public health
- Report from Seattle Office of Housing on state of homeless response and decline in funding for elder housing
- Report from Director of Department of Neighborhoods Bernie Matsuno

- Discussion of proposal to elect city members by district
- Downtown district council partnerships

New Business

-It was noted that member organizations may not be fulfilling their commitment to send representatives to 2/3 of district council meetings. The Secretary (Daniel Cardozo) was asked to keep track of this and follow up to remind member groups of the bylaws and encourage participation. The idea of a membership subcommittee was suggested.

Announcements-

-Christa announced that the Emergency Preparedness Committee won a \$20,000 neighborhood matching fund grant to pursue outreach

-February 9th is the 19th Annual "Neighbor Appreciation Day." See <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/neighborday/> for information.

-Christa will be putting in some office hours in Ballard. Council members are invited to let her know if you would like to meet with her.

-Susan announced improvements to Magnolia Manor Park: the opening of an off-leash area for dogs, and continued progress on a P-Patch, which should be ready for planting in mid-late Spring.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.